Spice & Wolf

Vol. 4

Story: Isuna Hasekura
Art: Keito Koume
Character Design: Jyuu Ayakura

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF

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Outline

On the way to the Church city of Ruvinheigen, Lawrence the traveling merchant and Holo, the wolf-god of the harvest (in her human form), stop in the town of Poroson to turn their cargo of pepper into coin. The cunning master of a trading company there tries to swindle them, but Holo sees through the ruse...

Norah

A talented young shepherdess employed by the Church in Ruvinheigen.

Lawrence

A traveling merchant journeying north to bring Holo to her homeland of Yoitsu.

Holo

A beautiful girl with the ears and tail of a wolf. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.

SPICE & WOLF

WHAT I DRANK WAS WINE...

...WAS IT NOT?

ボト

BOTO (PLIP)

KURUN (TUNK?)

クル～

EITHER WAY, THIS INCLINE WAS CERTAINLY NO ACCIDENT.

WAS IT THE LENGTH OF THE BALANCE? OR A CHANGE IN RESISTANCE WHEN IT MOVES?

NORMALLY, A SCALE CAN READ ACCURATELY EVEN ON AN UNEVEN SURFACE— IF IT'S ADJUSTED.

GOTO (TOK)

BUT THIS SCALE GAVE AN ACCURATE READING ON THIS SLANTED TABLE EVEN WITHOUT ANY ADJUSTMENT.

I SEE HOW IT IS.

GATA (KATUNK)

THE SECRET TO PROSPERITY IS BEING THE ONLY SOBER ONE, EH?

THERE'S A SAYING THAT "NO ONE DRINKS LESS THAN THE MASTER OF A FULL TAVERN." THIS MUST BE WHAT THAT MEANS.

JARI (KRUNCH)

KOKU (NOD)

I DOUBT WE'LL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER A SINGLE THING WE'VE SEEN OR HEARD IN HERE.

AAH! ああ。

IT SEEMS I'M DRUNK ON THE SAME WINE AS MY COMPANION.

NIKO (GRIN)

WH-WHAT DO YOU ...?

...THOUGH IN EXCHANGE, I MAY BE A BIT UNREA-SONABLE.

UH... ER...

I CAN'T POSSIBLY...

...OH— YOU'LL LET US BUY DOUBLE ON MARGIN.*

LET'S SEE. I THINK THE AMOUNT WE AGREED TO, PLUS...

...THE AMOUNT YOU WERE GOING TO GAIN, PLUS...

*BUYING ON MARGIN REFERS TO USING A PROMISSORY NOTE TO PURCHASE MORE GOODS THAN ONE HAS ASSETS TO SECURE. DONE SUCCESSFULLY, THIS ALLOWS A MERCHANT TO REALIZE A GREATER-THAN-USUAL AMOUNT OF PROFIT.

UGH...

.....

HENA (WOBBLE)

HENA

OH, THAT'S A SHAME. I'M FEELING MUCH LESS DRUNK.

YOU CAN'T DO IT?

I MEAN, THIS WILL COME TO AROUND A HUNDRED LUMIONE, AFTER ALL.

SURELY YOU HAVE LOTS OF GOODS BOUND FOR RUVINHEIGEN.

THEN PERHAPS SOME HIGH-QUALITY ARMS?

...ARMS, YOU SAY?

WEAPONS, YOU SAY...

THEY'RE ALWAYS A GOOD BET FOR TURNING A TIDY PROFIT.

AND I CAN GET THE LOAN BACK TO YOU QUICKLY THAT WAY. WHAT SAY YOU?

SINCE I'M SURE THERE'S A TRADING COMPANY IN RUVINHEIGEN WITH CONNECTIONS TO YOURS...

...SELLING THEM THERE WILL BALANCE OUT THE BOOKS.

NIKKORI (GRIN)

WELL, WHAT SAY YOU?

BUN (NOD)

BUN

...AS I HOPE TO DEPART FOR RUVIN-HEIGEN VERY SOON.

I'D LIKE TO ARRANGE FOR THE GOODS AT ONCE...

MY THANKS!

ドカ

DOKA (FWUMP)

GATA (TNK)

カ!!

U-UNDER-STOOD.

...ER, AS FOR THE VALUATION...

AFTER ALL, I TRUST IN GOD.

I SHALL LEAVE THAT TO YOU.

I DARESAY MY DRUNKENNESS IS LIFTING AS WELL.

ARE YOU TWO QUITE FINISHED?

OH— —MAKE SURE THE MUTTON'S FROM THE FLANKS NOW!

VERY WELL...

SOME FINE WINE AND MUTTON WOULD DO MUCH FOR MY SPIRITS.

ゴト GOTO

ゴト GOTO

ゴト GOTO (CLACK)

MY BELLY'S QUITE FULL.

ゴト GOTO

ゴト GOTO

URP...

THAT WAS TASTY.

PUAH!

あ

THAT LOOKS DELICIOUS...

MY SHARE WILL BE DEVOURED BEFORE THE SUN SETS...

GOTO ゴト

GOTO ゴト

GOTO
GOTO
GOSO (SHUFFLE)
GOSO
NOW, THEN, I DARESAY I'LL TAKE A NAP.
FURA (SWAY)
SFX: MUKU (YAWN)
HA HA HAI
I OUGHT TO TEND TO MY TAIL.
MM.
GOTO
GOTO
SUU (SHFF)
PITA (FWAP)
SHE'S GOOD AT THAT...
GOTO
GOTO
PIN (FLIK)

SU (SHF)

あく!!
AGU (NOMO)
AGU
あく!!

ゴゴゴ GORO (RUMBLE)
...OIL?
ゴゴゴ GORO

BASA (SWISH)
AYE, OIL. I'VE HEARD IT WOULD BE GOOD TO USE ON MY TAIL.
BASA

FLAAAAA (YAAAWN)
ふぁぁぁ
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
?

SO, WILL YOU BUY SOME FOR ME?

GATA (RATTLE)

.....

GOTO

GOTO (TNK)

GOTO

GU! (GRAB)

THERE'S THE HEAD TAX WHEN WE ENTER A TOWN, AS WELL.

—HAVE YOU ADDED THEM ALL UP?

THE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING NOW, PLUS THE EXTRAS, THE COMB, THE TRAVEL FEE, THE WINE AND FOOD—

SURELY YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME YOU CAN'T DO SUMS.

NIKO

NIKO (GRIN)

HEE HEE HEE!

.....

BETTER AT SUBTRACTING FROM MY COIN PURSE, THAT'S FOR SURE.

...BUT I'M STILL BETTER AT SUBTRACTION.

HEE HEE!

I CAN SURELY DO SUMS ...

IF YOU'RE SUCH A WISEWOLF, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT MY ANSWER FROM THAT.

WELL, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TRY ADDING UP ALL YOU'VE USED.

SHE EMPTIED TWO WINE-SKINS.

AH, PERHAPS SHE TRULY IS DRUNK.

SHINA (FLIP)

IF ONLY SHE WERE ALWAYS THIS AGREE-ABLE.

ほっ WHEW!

ニャ NYU (FWIP)

ALL RIGHT, I SHALL!

ゴト GOTO (CLACK)

ゴト GOTO

FUU (FWSH)

YOU WILL DEFINITELY BUY ME SOME!

TOSA (PLUMP)

FURA (SWAY)

TEE HEE!

FURA

DON'T FALL OUT OF THE WAGON, NOW

BA (REACH)

WHOA—

GURA (WOBBLE)

JUST LOOK WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WITS OF THE PROUD WISEWOLF WHEN SHE HAS TOO MUCH WINE.

GOTO

GOTO

HYO! (FWIP)

AFTER ALL, IT'S THANKS TO ME THAT YOUR WAGON BED WAS SO CHEAPLY FILLED.

YOU'LL PULL IN A TIDY PROFIT.

O-ON WHAT BASIS—

I'VE A SHARP MIND, KEEN EYES, AYE, BUT MY EARS ARE GOOD TOO.

I COULDN'T HAVE MISSED YOUR NEGOTIA-TIONS.

GOTO (CLACK)

GOTO

FASH (GRAB)

WAS IT THAT OBVIOUS?

YOU WERE ALL SMILES, YOU WERE.

SO YOU'LL BUY SOME OIL FOR ME, YES?

I CAN'T HAVE YOU BELITTLING ME, NOW.

PIN (PRIK)

AH—

MM?

OH? WHAT, YOU WANT ME TO PAY YOU BACK?

AND NOW YOU THINK I'M GOING TO SPEND MORE ON YOU?

GOTO

IT'S ONE HUNDRED FORTY SILVER! HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW MUCH MONEY THAT IS?

GOTO

UH, ER, WELL, HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK YOU'RE IN DEBT TO ME FOR?

OF. COURSE. I. DO.

AND DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED ABOUT IT EITHER.

GUGU (STRETCH)

WELL, I SUP-POSE—

SO THAT'S HOW YOU'VE BEEN THINKING.

GOTO

GOTO

—IF I PAY MY DEBTS, THAT MAKES ME A FREE WOLF.

I'LL FOLLOW YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE NORTH-LANDS—

—UNTIL YOU PAY ME BACK!

I'LL JUST PAY YOU BACK, THEN.

URK—

YOU DON'T PLAY FAIR.

I WONDER HOW PARD AND MYURI ARE FARING.

GOTO (KLOP)

FUU (SIGH)

GOTO

...WE DIDN'T DECIDE THE DUE DATE FOR REPAYMENT.

JUST AS LONG AS I GET IT BY THE TIME WE ARRIVE IN THE NORTH COUNTRY.

WILL THAT DO?

I SHOULD THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU BY THEN.

PA (GLOW)

AYE.

GORO (ROLL)

GORO

SO... YOU'LL DO IT FOR ME, YES?

...WHICH MEANS THE MORE I BORROW, THE GREATER PROFIT FOR YOU.

AND IT'S MY INTENTION TO PAY YOU BACK WITH INTEREST...

BASA (SHFF)

AYE.

MAKE IT PART OF MY DEBT, BUT PLEASE, BUY IT FOR ME, WON'T YOU?

...OIL, YOU MEAN?

BURURU (NICKER)

FINE, FINE.

KACHA (KLATTER)

KACHA

GACHA

RATHER HE PUT HIMSELF IN THE POSITION OF HAVING NO CHOICE BUT TO *BE* HAGGLED DOWN.

NYU (FWMP)

STILL, YOU REALLY DID HAGGLE HIM DOWN, DIDN'T YOU?

SFX: GOTO (CLACK) GOTO

IN THE END, SHE REALLY IS LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

I SHOULD THINK WE'LL MAKE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR YOUR OIL, ANYWAY.

GOTO

GOTO

PISHI (FLIK)

'TIS WELL! IT WOULDN'T DO TO BE SPONGING OFF AN UN-PROSPEROUS MERCHANT.

NI (GRIN)

AGU (NOM)

AGU

STILL, SOME SPICE WOULD BE TASTY...

GORO (RUMBLE)

GORO

PIKU (TWITCH)

I'M NOT LIKE YOU, YOU GLUTTON. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PROFIT.

YOU'VE EATEN IT?

SURELY THERE'S SOMETHING YOU COULD TRADE.

SAY... JEWELS OR GOLD? THOSE ARE SURE THINGS, NO?

HMPH. WELL, WHY DON'T YOU LOAD UP ON SPICE AGAIN, THEN?

THE PRICES IN RUVINHEIGEN AND POROSON AREN'T SO VERY DIFFERENT. I'D TAKE A LOSS AFTER PAYING THE TARIFF.

AGU (NOM)

RUVINHEIGEN IS NOT A PROFITABLE PLACE FOR SUCH THINGS REALLY.

AGU

THE TARIFF IS TOO HIGH.

ACHOO!

WHY'S THAT?

=SNIFF=

HMPH.

IT'S PROTEC-TIONISM.

IF WE SOMEHOW SMUGGLED GOLD IN...

...WE'D BE ABLE TO SELL IT FOR, OH, TEN TIMES WHAT WE PAID.

BUT THE DANGER RISES WITH THE PROFIT.

SO I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE MONEY BIT BY BIT.

GOTO

ゴト

GOTO (CLACK)

ゴト

OH TRULY?

THEY LEVY SERIOUS TAXES ON ALL BUT A CERTAIN GROUP OF MERCHANTS.

DO YOU HAVE SOME IDEA OTHERWISE?

FLU (BLOW)

?

IT MIGHT BE WORTH THE RISK IF YOU COULD BRING A LARGE AMOUNT IN... BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

SU

NOW LOOK HERE— IF THEY CATCH YOU, THEY'LL CUT OFF YOUR HAND, AT THE VERY LEAST.

SU SHF

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SNEAK IT IN?

BU (SNRK)

GOSO

GOSO (SHUFF)

...BUT I SEEM TO HAVE A CERTAIN COMPANION BENT ON WASTING THAT SAME STEADY COIN.

RIGHT YOU ARE...

WELL, YOUR BUSINESS IS STEADY ENOUGH. IT IS WELL AS LONG AS YOU MAKE STEADY COIN.

MM, 'TIS TRUE.

GOTO (CLACK)

GOTO

PON

PON

PON (PAT)

FUAAAA CYAAAWN

HEEE—

GOTO

GOTO

AH, WELL...

GOTO ゴト

THIS EVENING WE MUST DRINK TOGETHER— AND ENJOY THAT MUTTON TOO.

GOTO (CLACK) ゴト

I'VE NO INTENTION OF DRINKING IT ALL MYSELF.

I FORGOT TO SAY IT EARLIER, BUT THE WINE WE GOT FROM THE MASTER...

GOTO ゴト

GOTO ゴト

SUUU (ZZZ) ズ

SUUU ズ

SPICE & WOLF

SPICE & WOLF

ゴト
GOTO

ゴト
GOTO

ゴト
GOTO

ゴト
GOTO
(CLACK)

パタ
PATA

パタ
PATA
(FLAP)

THE WAGON WE PASSED EARLIER WAS FLYING A FLAG TOO.

ARE THEY MERCHANTS ON AN ERRAND FOR SOME KING SOMEWHERE?

GOTO
ゴト

GOTO
ゴト

THOSE FLAGS ARE SO MERCHANTS FROM THE SAME LAND CAN RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER AT A GLANCE.

IT LETS THEM TRADE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR HOMELANDS. NEWS CAN BE HARD TO COME BY.

AH WELL, I'LL BE BACK SOON ENOUGH, EH?

NO NEED FOR A FLAG!

GORO (RUMBLE)

ゴロ GORO

ゴロ GORO

ゴト GOTO (CLACK)

ゴト GOTO

ガタン GATAN (TNK)

……

FUAA (YAWN)

ふぁ〜

WHAT'D YOU SAY!?

GU (YANK)

HIHIIN (NEEIGH)

THERE IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE AHEAD.

HEY.

ARE THEY CARRYING WEAPONS?

THEY ARE CERTAINLY THERE. I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED.

GATA (KLATTER)

NIYA (SMIRK)

THEY HAD LONG, SHARP SPEARS, WHICH MADE THEM QUITE A BOTHER. THOUGH THEY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH MY WITS.

YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED SOLDIERS?

I DO NOT SEE ANY WEAPONS. THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE ANNOYING SOLDIERS, AT ANY RATE.

THERE'S... NO ONE ABOUT, YES?

BASA (SHFF)

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW THE DETAILS...

MMM...

?

SEEMS THERE'S SOME KIND OF TO-DO.

HUH?

IS THERE A MARKET I'VE FOR-GOTTEN ABOUT?

ZOKU (SHIVER)

PIN (PRIK)

THAT'S FOR SURE.

IT DOESN'T SMELL OF A FIGHT.

I WON-DER.

ANYONE HERE SPEAK PARCIAN? I THINK THIS GUY'S GOT A PROBLEM!

GAYA (CHATTER)

GAYA

THAT TALK ABOUT A MERCENARY BAND TRUE?

WAI (CHATTER)

WAI

NO, IT'S SURELY SHORTER TO TAKE THE ROAD THAT CROSSES THE PLAINS TO MITZHEIM.

SO, TO DETOUR AROUND HERE, TAKE THE PATH OF SAINT LYNE?

SORRY, WE JUST GOT HERE OURSELVES...

I GUESS I'LL JUST ASK SOMEONE WHAT'S GOING ON.

SEEMS LIKE IT'S JUST TRAVELING MERCHANTS AND CRAFTSMEN.

GOTO (KLOP)

GOTO...

KAN

KAN (WHOK)

BUY THIS CLOTH, WON'T YOU? I'LL TAKE SALT IN EXCHANGE.

EXCUSE ME.

HM?

OH, A FELLOW TRAVELER. HAVE YOU JUST ARRIVED?

YES, FROM PORO-SON.

SU (SHF)

BUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

NAY, WERE THAT SO, WE'D ALL HAVE MATS SPREAD ON THE GROUND AND BE TRADING THE DAY AWAY.

HA HA HA!

SURELY THE LOCAL EARL HASN'T DECIDED TO OPEN A MARKET HERE.

IN TRUTH, THERE'S TELL OF A MERCENARY BAND CROSSING THE ROAD TO RUVINHEIGEN.

SO WE'RE ALL STOPPED HERE.

NO.

THEY WERE FLYING CRIMSON FLAGS WITH A HAWK DEVICE UPON THEM.

A MERCE-NARY BAND?

I KNOW GENERAL RASTUILLE'S GROUP PATROLS THESE PARTS.

OH HO. I SEE YOU'VE TRAVELED THE NORTH-LANDS.

THE HEINZ-BERG MERCE-NARIES ...

I'D SOONER RUN INTO BANDITS THAN THEM WHEN CARRYING A FULL LOAD OF GOODS.

INDEED, THEY SAY IT'S THE HAWKS OF HEINZBERG.

BUN (SHAKE)

BUN

WHEN THEY BEHAVE STRANGELY, IT'LL MEAN CHAOS IN THE MARKET-PLACE.

THE HEINZBURG MERCENARIES ARE REPUTED TO SPOT THEIR PREY FASTER THAN A HAWK ON THE WING.

APPARENTLY THERE'S A NEW ROAD TO RUVINHEIGEN THAT HEADS OFF FROM THE ROAD TO KASLATA...

...BUT IT'S BEEN ON THE UNSAFE SIDE LATELY, I HEAR.

SO IT SEEMS TAKING A LONG DETOUR IS THE ONLY COURSE.

MOST PROBABLY!

THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WOLVES IN THE PLAINS...

...BUT IT'S BEEN ESPECIALLY BAD LATELY, THEY SAY.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

SEEMS LIKE THE BEST BET IS TO LAY LOW HERE AND KILL TIME FOR A FEW DAYS.

GUBI (GLUG)

RUMOR HAS IT THE WOLVES WERE SUMMONED BY A PAGAN SORCERER.

THERE'S A STORY GOING AROUND THAT AN ENTIRE CARAVAN WAS TAKEN TWO WEEKS AGO.

—HOW DO YOU GET TO IT?

THAT NEW ROAD—

GOOD LUCK, FRIEND!

WA.

WA. (CHATTER)

HEY, SOMEBODY'S HEADING OUT!

ヒヒ〜ン
HIHIIN
(WHINNY)
GOOD TRAVELS!
DON'T DIE!
I SUPPOSE.
HOH?
"THE ROAD AHEAD LEADS TO PROFIT."
IT'S THE MERCHANTS' MOTTO.
MM.
(GRIN)
THEY'D BE MORE INTERESTING THAN HUMANS. AT THE VERY LEAST, WE'LL BE ABLE TO TALK.
HEH HEH HEH!
SUM-MONED, EH?
WOLVES ON THE PLAINS, NOW!
ゴト
GOTO
ゴト
GOTO (KLOP)
YOU CERTAINLY SEEM HAPPY.
ゴト
GOTO
GOOD ONE!
HA HA HA!

IF THINGS GO WELL, WHO KNOWS WHAT PROFITS MAY BE HAD?

THEY REACHED THE ROAD IN QUESTION AROUND MIDDAY NEXT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? ANY WOLVES ABOUT?

GOTO (KLOP) GOTO

CHUUU (SLRRP)

WE WOLVES ARE HARDLY SO FOOLISH AS TO BE SPOTTED FROM A PLACE WITH SUCH AN OBVIOUSLY GOOD VIEW.

NEVER MIND THAT.

THIS ONE'S A FARAM SILVER PIECE.

GARA

WAIT, WAS NOT THE COUNTERFEIT MARINNE THIS ONE?

GARA (CLACK)

NOPE. IT'S A COUNTER-FEIT MARINNE.

NO, THAT'S A PIECE OF LATE RADEON BISHOPRY SILVER.

GARA

GOSO (SHFF)

.....

(PORO (DROOP)

HEH!

GACHA (CHINK)

ONCE MORE!

NO!

JARA (JANGLE)

WELL, YOU'LL PICK IT UP AS YOU USE THEM, NO DOUBT.

FARAM SILVER.

FAKE MARINNE SILVER.

TRENNI SILVER.

PHIRING SILVER.

BALD KING LANDBARD SILVER.

RYUT SILVER.

ALL RIGHT, FROM THE TOP.

MM.

Y-
YOU'RE...

FAKE MITZFING TEMPLE SILVER.

GUNYAA (SLUMP)

MITZFING TEMPLE SILVER.

.....

YOU'RE MAKING SPORT OF ME, SURELY.

"MASTER YOU'RE TRICKING ME ON PURPOSE!

SAINT MITZFING SILVER.

MIZTFINGMAS SILVER.

AND... THIS ONE IS...

NO, NO—

MMMM

GRRRR!

HEEE!

HEEE!

HA HA HA HA HA!

PFFT!

THEN DON'T LAUGH.

GASHA (CHOK)

HEH HEH HEH!

THE MITZFING DIOCESE IN PARTICULAR ISSUES A LOT OF COIN.

I'M NOT TEASING YOU, TRULY.

GARA

GARA

GARA (KLATTER)

GOTO

A POWERFUL REGIONAL LORD OR CHURCH CAN ALSO ISSUE COIN.

AND OF COURSE, THERE'S NO END TO COUNTER-FEITING.

THEY'RE MADE WHEN A NEW NATION IS ESTAB-LISHED—OR COLLAPSES.

GOTO (KLOP)

IT SEEMS SUCH A BOTHER.

ANY-WAY, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY COINS ?

WHEN PELTS WERE USED, YOU ALWAYS KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DEALING WITH.

KUN

KUN SNIFF)

EVEN THE RYUT SILVER STARTED OUT AS A FAKE TRENNI PIECE.

BUT IT WAS SO WIDELY USED IT BECAME AN INDEPENDENT CURRENCY.

THE SILVER ITSELF HAD VALUE, AFTER A

HEH HEH HEH!

STILL, IT'S A GOOD WAY TO KILL TIME, EH?

ENOUGH.

WHOOPS!

GASHA (JINGLE)

!D!O

!!

HMPH!

.....

STILL, THERE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE AROUND.

GOTO

GOTO

GOTO (KLOP)

AGU (NOM)

AGU

RUMORS ARE A POWERFUL FORCE.

GOSO

GOSO (SHFF)

THOUGH IT'S NOT QUITE TRUE THAT THERE'S NO ONE ABOUT.

THERE WILL BE A SHEPHERD AHEAD— I SO HATE SHEPHERDS.

TSuuu (IRKED)

I SMELL SHEEP.

HA HA HA!

NAY, IT'S THEM WHO SHOULD RUN FROM US. THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO MOVE ASIDE.

TOSA (FWUMP)

GATA (CLACK)

SHALL WE DETOUR?

GIRC CLARE

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, WE'LL STAY THE COURSE.

THE FIELDS SUIT OUR WAGON QUITE WELL.

KARAN (DING)

THERE'S ALL THAT DELICIOUS MEAT JUST WALKING ABOUT...

KARAN

DOKA (KLOK)

CHIRA (GLANCE)

I'VE DESPISED SHEPHERDS LONGER THAN YOU'VE BEEN ALIVE.

GETTING ALONG WITH THEM NOW IS IMPOSSIBLE.

GARA

GARA (RUMBLE)

TSUUU (SIGH)

IMAGINE JUST HAVING TO LOOK AT IT, NEVER TASTING IT.

YOU'D GROW TO HATE THEM TOO, WOULD YOU NOT?

AT LEAST HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A GHOST.

スッ
SU

スッ
SU (SHF)

カラン
KARAN

カラン
KARAN (RING)

GARA
ガラ

GARA (CLACK)
ガラ

ZA (SHHK)

HFF!

HFF!

I AM LAWRENCE, A TRAVELING MERCHANT.

THIS IS MY COMPANION, HOLO.

RATHER SMALL, FOR A SHEPHERD...

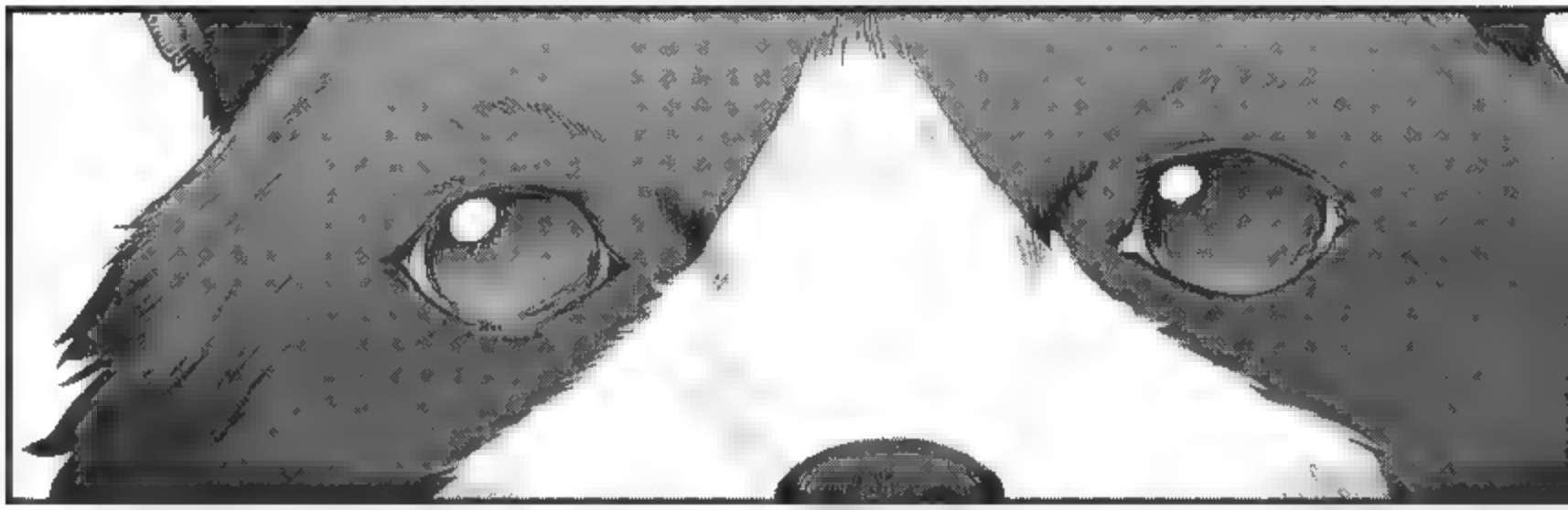
HFF!

HFF!

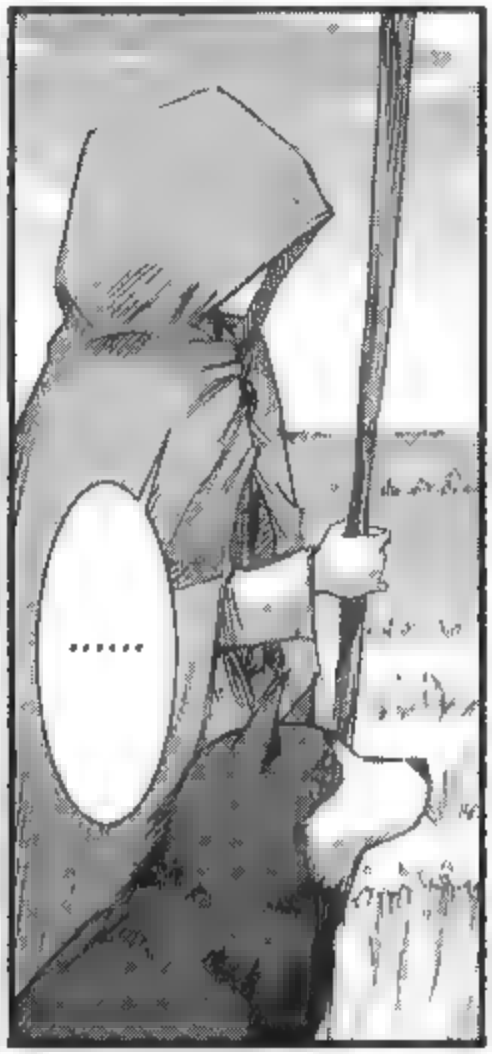
HFF!

SU (SNF)

ZA (CRUNCH)



NIKKORI
(GRIND)


.....

...YOU'LL BE WELL MET.
IF YOU ARE A GOOD SHEPHERD AND TRUE...
I HAVE COME BY THIS ROAD AND MET YOU BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

—WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE HIMSELF WITH THE TRADITIONAL HYMN AND DANCE OF THEIR KIND.

KOKU (BOW)

A TRUE SHEPHERD— AS OPPOSED TO AN EVIL SPIRIT DISGUISED AS SUCH—

BY THE BLESSING OF GOD IN THE HEAVENS...

ZU (SKRSH)

ズ"
ZU
ズ"
ZU
ズ"

THAT VOICE.....

トン

TON (TOK)

SUU (INHALE)

ス

SU (SHF)

KARON (CLANG)

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, THE SHEPHERD FOLLOWS THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS.

TO (TOK)

ZA (ZUP)

THE LAMBS ARE LED BY THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEPHERD BY GOD.

SA (SFF)

...THE WORD OF GOD IS CARRIED ON THE WIND, AND THE BLESSINGS OF THE SPIRITS OF THE LAND INHABIT THE VERY GRASS EATEN BY THE LAMB.

—A GIRL!?

...BY THE PROTECTION OF THE SPIRITS OF THE LAND...

GATAN (KATUNK)

MY APOLOGIES FOR DOUBTING YOU. YOU SURELY ARE A SHEPHERDESS.

WITH PLEASURE.

...I WOULD HAVE YOU PRAY FOR OUR SAFE TRAVELS, SHEPHERD-ESS.

HAVING MET YOU BY THE GRACE OF GOD...

SPICE & WOLF

LE, SPINZIO...

...TUERO.

PALTI, MIS...

...CUL.

...TIRATTO...

SPICE & WOLF

PUOOOOOO!

SUU (INHALE)

THANK YOU VERY KINDLY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

.....

GOSO

GOSO (SHFF)

UZU

UZU (FIDGET)

WE HAVEN'T PASSED ANOTHER TRAVELER ALL DAY, SO I'M GLAD WE MET YOU.

WELL, THEN—

YES—THE PILGRIMAGE ROAD OF SAINT METROGIUS WAS IMPASSABLE, SO WE CAME THIS WAY.

?

ER—

ARE YOU PERCHANCE BOUND FOR RUVINHEIGEN?

I HAVE INDEED.

BUT I'M IN A HURRY, SO I DECIDED TO TAKE THE RISK.

...HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE WOLVES, THEN?

I SEE ...

.....?

ANYTHING AT ALL— IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED?

モジ MOJI (FIDGET)

AH—

WELL... THAT IS...

モジ MOJI

IS SOME-THING THE MATTER ?

IF I DON'T ASK, I'LL BE A FAILURE NOT JUST AS A MERCHANT, BUT AS A MAN!

WELL... I...

...I WAS WONDERING IF YOU MIGHTN'T... HIRE ME.

AH, WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M A MERCHANT, AND I DON'T TRADE IN SHEEP. I'M SORRY, BUT...

OH, NO— NOT THAT!

IT'S NOT THAT—

.....

ENEK, COME.

SUKU (WHIP)

I'M A SHEPHERD.

UM, I TEND MY FLOCK, BUT I CAN ALSO DRIVE OFF WOLVES.

KARON (CLANG)

WOOF!

PA (DASH)

IF YOU'LL BE SO GOOD AS TO HIRE ME...

...I CAN...

...I CAN PROTECT YOU AND YOUR COMPANION FROM WOLVES.

カロン KARON (CLANG)

カロン KARON

HMM.

BUT THE NOTION OF HIRING A SHEPHERD TO WARD OFF WOLVES WAS INTERESTING INDEED.

SAAA (SHOOO)

KNIGHTS OR MERCENARIES WERE OFTEN HIRED AS PROTECTION ON DANGEROUS ROADS.

NI...KO (SMI...LE)

WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT...?

TH-THANK YOU!

I'LL CONSULT WITH MY COMPANION.

WAIT A MOMENT, IF YOU WOULD.

MM...

IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT A SHEPHERD'S ABILITY TO REPEL WOLVES, YOUR BEST BET WOULD BE TO ASK THE NEAREST WOLF.

HOLO.

FUAAAA (YAAAAWN)

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT SHEPHERDESS?

GATO (TNK)

HM?

MM...

HIHIIIN (NEEIGH)

I'M FAR MORE FETCHING.

KARON (CLANG)

SKILLS?

SFX CHIRA (PEEK)

JUUGH

NOT THAT— I MEAN HER SKILLS.

IF SHE'S GOOD, SHE MIGHT BE WORTH HIRING.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL OF HER, AS A SHEPHERD?

ZA (DASH)

YOU HEARD US, SURELY.

YOU ALREADY HAVE ME, DO YOU NOT?

THERE COULD BE NEW BUSINESS IN IT.

BUT IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME TO USE A SHEPHERD TO DRIVE OFF WOLVES.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE.

DOKA (WHUD)

KOFF!

YOU ARE THE FAIRER, AFTER ALL.

I'M NOT BEING BLINDED BY CHARM.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

SO, WHAT OF HER SKILL?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S A PASSING MARK.

PHEW.

I CANNOT SAY FOR CERTAIN WITHOUT SEEING HER IN ACTION...

...BUT I SUPPOSE SHE'D BE IN THE TOP HALF.

HOWEVER, NORMAL WOLVES WOULD BE DEALT WITH, EVEN IF THEY ATTACKED TOGETHER.

I COULD TAKE A SHEEP FROM HER.

KARAN (CLANG)

...WHO KNOW HOW TO COOPERATE WITH THEM.

THE WORST SHEPHERDS ARE THE ONES WITH CLEVER DOGS...

HER VOICE SUGGESTS THAT SHE'S YOUNG, WHICH MAKES IT EVEN WORSE.

THAT ONE DOES BOTH, I DARESAY.

THAT'S A SURPRISINGLY HIGH ESTIMATION.

BEFORE SHE GETS ANY MORE DANGEROUS, I'VE HALF A MIND TO—

SU (SHF)

ALL RIGHT. THANKS.

GATA (TNK)

HEY.

YES?

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO HIRE THAT?

NIYA (SMIRK)

IF YOU'RE GOING TO HIRE HER, THAT MEANS SHE WILL BE TRAVELING WITH US FOR A TIME.

I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

AAH.

YOU HATE HER THAT MUCH?

.....

IS SHE TRYING TO TELL ME SHE'D RATHER TRAVEL WITH JUST THE TWO OF US...?

HMPH!

YOU DON'T LIKE IT?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

NOR DID I SAY *THAT.*

WELL, IN THAT CASE, I'M SORRY, BUT I'LL HAVE TO IMPOSE UPON YOUR PATIENCE.

IT'S ABOUT TWO DAYS TO RUVINHEIGEN.

NO GOOD?

WHAT EXACTLY AM I TO ENDURE, THEN?

YOU CAN MANAGE FOR TWO DAYS, CAN'T YOU?

...I'D JUST LIKE TO SEE HOW EFFECTIVE A SHEPHERD IS AGAINST WOLVES.

MM...

WELL...

...'TIS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. BUT THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE.

WELL...

...IF WE TRAVEL CARELESSLY WITH SOMEONE ELSE, THEY MIGHT FIND OUT ABOUT ME, MIGHT THEY NOT?

P-SH-SHOCK

?

YIKES...

AND I COULD MANAGE, AYE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

MM...

YOU...

...WANTED ME TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS, MM?

OH HOH, I SEE HOW IT IS.

KUH!

I...

...I WANTED TO TRAVEL WITH JUST YOU...

I JEST.

COME, NOW.

ZA (SKSH)

FURA (WOBBLE)

FURA

HEE HEE!

HONESTLY.

I DOUBT I'LL BE EXPOSED IN TWO DAYS.

DO AS YOU WILL.

HOW DOES FORTY TRIE FOR THE TRIP TO RUVINHEIGEN SOUND?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

OH, N-NOT AT ALL. SO—

Y-YES, PLEASE!

IT'S A DEAL, THEN.

DA (BEAM)

WITH A BONUS IF WOLVES ATTACK AND WE MAKE IT THROUGH SAFELY.

MIGHT I INQUIRE AS TO YOUR NAME, MISS?

OH, UM, MY APOLOGIES.

GOSH

GOSHI (WIPE)

NO—

NORAH ARENDT.

AGAIN, I'M KRAFT LAWRENCE.

I GO BY LAWRENCE IN BUSINESS.

GU (CLENCH)

I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU 'TIL RUVINHEIGEN.

MY THANKS!

SPICE & WOLF

BAAAH!

BAAAH!

GOTO

GOTO

GOTO (KLOP)

STILL, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD A SHEPHERD OFFER THEIR SERVICES AS AN ESCORT.

HM?

!!

!!!

GOTO

GOTO

SPICE & WOLF

I JUST...

... WANTED SOME-ONE TO TALK TO.

GYU (CLENCH)

NORMALLY, THEY'D REFUSE SUCH A REQUEST, TO SAY NOTHING OF OFFERING WORK.

.....

I CAN UNDER-STAND THAT.

I'D LIKE TO BECOME A DRESS-MAKER.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONE OTHER THING.

AH, SO IT'S THE GUILD MEMBERSHIP DUES YOU NEED.

EH?

THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY SO IN A NEW TOWN.

THEY'RE HIGH NEARLY EVERY-WHERE.

SOMETIMES THE GUILD DUES ARE COMPLETELY FREE IN NEWLY-FOUNDED TOWNS.

I-IS THAT TRUE?

GYU (CLENCH)

F-FREE...

IF THEY KNOW, THEY'LL PROBABLY BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU, SINCE YOU MIGHT WIND UP BEING A TRADING PARTNER FOR THEM IN THE FUTURE.

IF WE MEET ANY OTHER MERCHANTS ON THE ROAD, YOU SHOULD ASK THEM IF THEY KNOW OF ANY PLANS TO FOUND NEW TOWNS IN THE AREA.

FEWER TOWNS HAVE BEEN FOUNDED RECENTLY.

OF COURSE, THAT'S IF THEY KNOW ANY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

GOTO (KLOP)

YOU'D DO WELL TO SAVE STEADILY AS YOU PRAY FOR GOOD FORTUNE.

SHE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM A CERTAIN SOMEONE I KNOW ...

SUU (ZZZ)

SUU

KOKU (NOD)

I SHALL.

SAAAA (WHOOSH)

KARAN (CLANG)

KARAN

GOTO (KLOP)
GOTO
MOZO (RUSTLE)
MOZO
WHEW.
YES.
AND GOD CAN BECOME ANGRY IF YOU RELY ON HIM TOO MUCH.
SPEAKING STRICTLY FROM THE STAND-POINT OF A MER-CHANT...
...YOU MIGHT MAKE MORE MONEY ESCORTING MY KIND LIKE THIS THAN YOU DO TENDING SHEEP.
UUHHH...
SURELY THE TERRITORY DISPUTES ARE DIFFICULT.
THEY ARE.
THE SAFEST PLACES ALREADY HAVE SHEPHERDS OCCUPYING THEM.
SO THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THESE WOLF-STREWN FIELDS?

...SO A SAFER PLACE WOULD BE NICE.

I'M SURE THE WOLVES ARE ONLY LOOKING FOR FOOD, BUT SOMETIMES THEY TAKE LIVES IN THE PROCESS...

GOTO ゴト

GOTO ゴト

YES, WOLVES ARE SLY AND TREACHEROUS CREATURES INDEED.

GIRI

GIRIRI (PINCH)

WOLVES CAN CERTAINLY BE TROUBLE-SOME—

—OWW!

IF I SPEAK ILL OF THEM, THEY MAY HEAR.

SO I WON'T.

FUWA (WHFF)

...SHOULDN'T YOUR SERVICES BE IN GREAT DEMAND, AND YOUR FLOCK HUGE?

STILL, IF YOU'VE SKILL ENOUGH TO DEFEND YOUR FLOCK EVEN THROUGH WOLF-INFESTED FIELDS...

HA HA HA!

INDEED.

A HUGE FLOCK, I JUST COULDN'T ...

AND I'M THANKFUL TO HAVE ANY WORK AT ALL.

ゴト GOTO (X-LOP)

ゴト GOTO

NO, NO, IT'S ONLY BY THE GRACE OF GOD THAT I REMAIN SAFE...

GORO ゴロ

MAYHAP IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

WELL, THEN YOUR EMPLOYER HAS NO EYE FOR SKILL.

ゴロ GORO (RUMBLE)

OH—

I COULDN'T...

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY!

MY APOLOGIES. I AM SORRY.

AS A MERCHANT, I AM ALWAYS THINKING OF GAINS AND LOSSES.

AH

DOKI (BADUM)

DOKI

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

DOKI

UM...

YES?

ZAZAZAZA (FFFSSSHH)

DO...

...DO PEOPLE...

...CHANGE THEIR EMPLOYERS OFTEN?

GU (CLENCH)

NO MATTER HOW SKILLED SHE MAY BE, THERE COULDN'T BE MANY WHO WOULD WOULD ENTRUST THEIR FLOCK TO A MERE GIRL.

I SEE ...

I THINK IT'S NORMAL IF ONE IS UNSATISFIED WITH ONE'S TERMS OF EMPLOY-MENT.

WELL, YES.

HOW—

IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, IS YOUR EMPLOYER BY ANY CHANCE THE CHURCH?

YES.

ER... WELL...

I RECEIVE MY FLOCK FROM A PRIEST OF THE CHURCH, BUT...

SFX: GYU (STOMP)

HOW DID YOU —?

CALL IT A MERCHANT'S SECRET.

TA (TROT)
TA
TA
TA
BA (WHUP)
.....
I DARESAY YOU NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT FINDING A DIFFERENT EMPLOYER, THEN.
DO YOU THINK SO?
YES. WITH THE CHURCH'S INSISTENCE ON HONORABLE POVERTY...
...YOUR PAY WILL ALWAYS BE A BIT LOW, BUT...
...SO LONG AS GOD DOESN'T ABANDON US, THE CHURCH WILL ALWAYS EXIST.
YOU'LL NOT WANT FOR WORK.

ISN'T THAT SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR?

AND AS LONG AS YOU HAVE WORK, YOU'LL EAT.

SHEPHERD-ESSES WERE RARER THAN FAIRIES— WAS SHE REALLY BEING SUPERVISED BY THE CHURCH?

I SUPPOSE SO.

GARA

GARA (RATTLE)

HI-GARA

WAS IT REALLY TRUE...?

AFTER ALL, GOD NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HAVING A NICE LITTLE SIDELINE, EH?

...SO WE'LL TRY ASKING AFTER ANY MERCHANTS THERE WHO MIGHT NEED PROTECTION FROM WOLVES.

ANYWAY, I'VE MANY ACQUAIN-TANCES IN RUVIN-HEIGEN...

MM...

THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

TRULY?

PAA (GLOOW)

ワーン

WOOF!

BIKUN (FLINCH)

I'M SORRY...

THAT DOG IS DEFI-NITELY MALE.

IN ANY CASE...

SUU (SHF)

...ALL WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING BY TRAVEL...

YES.

PA (DASH)

KARAN (CLANG) カラン

KARAN カラン

...DREAM OF SETTLING IN A TOWN.

AGU (NOM)...

AGU

DAILY CARE OF ONE'S TAIL IS IMPORTANT.

AGU (NOM)

HARD WORK.

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GETTING A BIT OF SLEEP BEFORE SHE KEEPS WATCH THROUGH THE NIGHT.

OH, YOU MEANT THE CHILD.

GASHA (THÖK)

?

AYE, OF COURSE.

PIKU (TWITCH)

GOSO (SHIFF)

YOU'D BE ABLE TO TELL IF A WOLF APPROACHED EVEN WHILE YOU SLEPT, I'M SURE.

GOSO

CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

THAT'S NOT SO CONVINCING, COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO SNORES SO.

HA HA HA!

'TIS ONLY YOU HUMANS WHO SLEEP SO DEFENSELESSLY.

MOST ANIMALS STAY ALERT, WHETHER WAKING OR SLUMBERING.

SUKKU (FWSSH)

I DO NOT SNORE.

!

FINE, FINE.

HA HA HA!

BA (LUNGE)

GI (GRK)

I DO NOT SNORE, I SAY.

WELL, NOT SO LOUDLY, TO BE SURE.

IT'S MORE CHARMING THAN IT IS LOUD, IN TRUTH.

FINE, I SAID!

BASHI

BASHI (WHAP)

GIRI

GIRI (CHOKE)

I SAID I DON'T SNORE!

SU (SHK)

PI (SNATCH)

GURA (FLAIL)

GET OFF!

GURA

WITH NORAH?

YOU CERTAINLY SEEMED TO ENJOY YOUR LITTLE CHAT WITH HER.

SHE WANTED TO TALK. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO REFUSE, DID I?

ALSO, I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO A NORMAL GIRL IN SOME TIME.

SUU (ZZZ)

SUU

?

あ

AAAA (SIGH)

はぁ

あ

HAAAAH (SIIIGH)

ピク

PIKU (TWITCH)

URK—

!?

UZU (SWISH)

UZU

HONESTLY.

YOU COULDN'T EVEN TELL THAT SHE HATED SPEAKING WITH YOU?

HUH?

THAT'S JUST AS WELL.

WHEN...?!

GOTO (TNK)

IF SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH ME AT FIRST SIGHT, SHE'D MISS THE FUN OF FALLING FOR ME BIT BY BIT, EH?

HE COULDN'T VERY WELL KEEP FALLING FOR THE SAME TRICK OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

I'VE SOME WIT MYSELF, EH?

KIRI (FWISH)

FULL (FWLUMP)

HEY—

AH HA HA HA!

PIKU

HIII (GASP)

BATA (WHAP)

AH HA HA HA!

PIKL (TWITCH)

BAH HAH HAH!

BATA

BATA

HAH—

OH, THAT'S TOO GOOD!

BWA-HA-HA HAAAA!

GORO (ROLL)

GORO

GORO

HA HAAA!!

GORO

KUH—

PFFFFT!

HA HA HA!

BIKUN (TWITCH)

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

PITA (PAUSE)

HAAH!

HA HA HA HA HA!

HA

BASHI (FWACK)

AH HA HA HA!

AH HA HA

HA HA HA!

BASHI

WHEW...

HA HA...

HAHI (HIC)

HIIII (GAAASP)

BUFLLW (SNRK)

HFFF! は

HOO... WHEW...

HFFF! は

HFFF! はあ

OH... SUCH MIRTH.

HEH.

OKAY, THAT'S TOO MUCH LAUGHING.

GOKU (GULP)

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

PUU (FWIK)

ARE YOU QUITE DONE?

THAT WAS QUITE A TRUMP CARD YOU HAD THERE.

MM.

WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY NOW.

YOU WERE IN A FOUL TEMPER EARLIER— BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T TEND TO YOUR TAIL.

HM? HAPPY?

POFU (SWSSH)

ぽふ

POFU

ぽふ

CAN'T BE HELPED.

INDEED I WAS.

OH, YES.

KUFU (SNRK)

ANYWAY, YOUR TRUMP CARD MADE ME LAUGH SO HARD I TURNED GIDDY.

IS THE CHILD NOT COLD, I WONDER?

NYOKI (SMAK)

GUESS IT'S TIME FOR A FIRE.

DOSA (WHUMP)

HAYMENT FOR YOUR SHERVICES AS A JESTER.

OH, YOU DON' WAN' IT?

ONLY ONE PIECE OF JERKY FOR SUCH LAUGH-TER?

.....

HYOI (YANK)

GACH! (SNAP)

AAHM!

HAA (SIGH)

SFX: ZA ZA ZA ZA (WWHHSSSHH)

WHAT SAY YOU?

I DO THINK, FROM TIME TO TIME, THAT SOME RAW MUTTON WOULD BE NICE.

BAAAH.

BAAAH

SFX. BISHI (FLICK)

HEE HEE!

HA HA HA!

ACK!

BAAAAH...

SPICE & WOLF

GATA (RATTLE)

GOTO

GOTO

GOTO (CLOP)

GOTO

OH HOH...

OWING TO THE HEAVY TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF A CITY THIS SIZE, ONE HAD TO OBTAIN A PASSAGE DOCUMENT AT THE OUTER CHECKPOINT IN ORDER TO PASS THROUGH THE STATION AT THE CITY WALLS.

ENTERING RUVINHEIGEN REQUIRED PASSING THROUGH TWO SEPARATE CHECKPOINTS.

ゴト GOTO

ゴト GOTO (KLOP)

LEGITIMATE TRAVELERS WOULD USE THE LEGAL ROUTES INTO THE CITY, OBTAIN PROPER DOCUMENTS, AND PASS THROUGH THE WALLS— ANY WHO LACKED THE PASSAGE DOCUMENT WOULD BE TURNED AWAY ON THE SPOT.

THIS PROVIDED SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER THE INEVITABLE SMUGGLING AND COUNTERFEITING THAT LARGE CITIES ATTRACTED.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I WAS ANY HELP...

NO, YOUR SHEEP-HANDLING WAS SPLENDID. THANK YOU.

IF YOU'RE ENTERING THROUGH THE SOUTH GATE, WE'LL PART WAYS HERE.

CALL IT AN INVEST-MENT.

ER, BUT, IF I EXCHANGE THIS, WON'T IT COME TO MORE THAN...?

RIGHT, THEN, HERE'S YOUR FORTY TRIE.

CHARI (CLINK)

NOW THAT I KNOW SUCH A SKILLED SHEPHERD, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TURN A SURPRISING PROFIT ON WOOL.

NIKA (GRIND)

AN... INVEST-MENT?

WELL, THEN, THANK YOU.

HEE! HEE!

IF YOU'VE PLANS TO TAKE YOUR FLOCK AFIELD AGAIN, COME BY THERE FIRST.

WE'LL BE AT THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD FOR A WHILE.

GATO (KATLINK)

OH. THAT'S RIGHT.

GOSO

GOSO (SHFF)

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A MERCHANT IN NEED OF ESCORT.

GATA (RATTLE)

OH, THIS MAY BE RUDE OF ME, BUT MERCHANTS ARE ALWAYS MINDING THEIR FEET.

NEVER MANAGED TO SELL THEM. PLEASE, TAKE THEM.

KAA (BLUSH)

!

IT'S AN INVEST-MENT.

ER—

LET ME BUY THEM!

OH, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY...

MOJ. (FIDGET)

MOJ!

UNDERSTOOD. DOES FIVE TRIE SOUND FAIR?

YES!

ER, I CAN GO AS FAR AS KASLATA AND PORO-SON.

OH, AND ALSO TO LAMTRA.

OH, ONE LAST THING.

THE AREA WHERE YOU CAN PROVIDE ESCORT—IS IT JUST THE ROUTE WE TOOK?

THE FREE CITY OF LAMTRA?

LAMTRA

RUVINHEIGEN

YOU MUST HAVE A SHORTCUT THROUGH THE FOREST.

I DARESAY YOU'LL HAVE SOME BUSINESS TAKING PEOPLE THAT WAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

PA (BEAM)

GORO (ROLL)
GORO
GARA (RATTLE)
GOTO (KLOP)
GAYA (CHATTER)
GAYA
GAYA

STILL, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE JUMPING OUT OF LINE.
GARA
GARA

IT WON'T GO SO EASILY THIS TIME.
THANKS TO NORAH, WE GOT THROUGH THE OUTER CHECKPOINT QUICKLY.
GOTO
GOTO

I SUPPOSE.
SO, THOSE TWO SILVER COINS YOU GAVE HER BACK THEN— THEY WOULD EXCHANGE FOR FORTY-FIVE TRIE, RIGHT?
AH, I SEE.
GARA
GARA
GATA (RATTLE)

GARA
GARA
THERE'S A PLAZA JUST INSIDE THE CHECKPOINT, WHICH IS WHERE THE INSPECTIONS ARE DONE.
A LOT OF FIRST-TIMERS WIND UP POINTLESSLY LINING UP OUTSIDE THE GATE.

(CHIRA (GLANCE))

AH.

GOTO

GOTO

SHE'S A TOUGHER GIRL THAN HER AGE WOULD SUGGEST.

SHE MUST WORK VERY HARD.

HA HA HA...

YOU THINK ME SO ILL-NATURED?

HMPH...

IN ANY CASE, WE'LL NOW SEE HOW THOSE HONEYED PEACH PRESERVES TASTE! I AM SURELY LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT.

HM. SO YOU REMEM-BERED THAT, DID YOU?

THAT WAY!

WAI (CHATTER)

GARA (RATTLE)

GARA

WAI

WAI

TWENTY SETS OF ARMOR.

OUT OF POROSON, EH? YOUR GOODS?

GATA (KLATTER)

I BOUGHT THEM FROM THE LATPARRON COMPANY IN POROSON. IS THERE A PROBLEM?

?

ARMOR? FROM PORO-SON?

STOCK.

THIS DOES SEEM LIKE POROSON ARMOR. WILL YOU BE PAYING IN COIN OR STOCK?

UNDER-STOOD

NHEW

TURN IN TWO SETS OF ARMOR OVER THERE.

GOOD ANSWER.

SARA

SARA (SKRTCH)

GATO (TUP)

GARA

GARA

GOTO

GOTO

THE TAX COLLECTOR BACK THERE REACTED VERY ODDLY...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?

GOTO (KLOP)

GOTO

BIKU (FLINCH)

HEY, MERCHANT.

WHA—

BOSO (WHISPER)

RIGHT!

WE'LL LEAVE THE HORSE AT THE INN, THEN HEAD INTO THE MARKET, SHALL WE?

TRUTH IS...

WHAT IS IT?

SIGH...

...I AM HUNGRY.

WAI CCHATTERO

WA.

WA.

GAYA

GAYA CHATTERO

THANKS, COME AGAIN!

HOLO, I'VE GOT SOME EEL! CLEAR THE TABLE!

JUUUU (SIZZLE).

ZAAAA (FSSSSHHH)

AYE, AND DOES IT SUIT ME?

HEE HEE!

WAI CHATTERO

WAI

YOU LOOK FOR ALL THE WORLD LIKE A TOWN GIRL NEGLECTING HER WORK TO MAKE MERRY.

PAAAAH!

はあ

HOHH, THAT'S TASTY!

FRIED LAMPREY EEL GOES WELL WITH ALE.

DOES WHAT SUIT YOU—THE CLOTHES, OR THE BEARD?

コト KOTO (TNK)

GYUUUUUU (GURRRR)

FUWA

!

FUWA (MMPH)

FUWA

FUWA

HAFU

FU

HAFU (MUNCH)

PARI (CRUNCH)

BARI

YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE FOOD..

MMMMPH!

FURU (TREMBLE)

FURU

BARMAN! ANOTHER ROUND!

HA HA HA!

YOU'VE BEEN SNARED BY A RATHER EXPENSIVE MAIDEN, FRIEND!

MM, I REMEMBER RUVINHEIGEN NOW!

WHAT'S THIS, THEN?

BUT NOT AS A CITY— 'TWAS A PERSON'S NAME.

GOTO (TNK)

HA-HA-HA, SURELY NOT.

.....

HMM.

I REMEMBER GIVING HIM A GOOD BITE.

IT'S A HISTORIC NAME.

IT'S A CITY NOW, BUT IT WAS THE NAME OF A SAINT WHO LED A GROUP OF CRUSADERS AGAINST THE PAGANS.

AH, YOU'RE NOT WRONG.

HE SET HIS KNIGHTS AFTER ME WITH SPEAR AND SWORD.

HE TOOK ONE GLANCE AT MY LOVELY EARS AND TAIL, THEN DENOUNCED ME AS A DEMON.

HE WAS A MAN WITH FLAMING RED HAIR AND A GREAT BUSHY BEARD.

I'D HAD ENOUGH, SO I TOOK MY TRUE FORM AND KICKED HIS KNIGHTS AROUND FOR A WHILE.

IN THE END, I SUNK MY TEETH INTO THAT RUVIN-HEIGEN'S BACKSIDE.

HE WAS RATHER LEAN, AND FAR FROM TASTY.

NADE

NADE (PAT)

TO THINK THAT WAS REALLY YOU—

IT'S SAID THAT SAINT RUVINHEIGEN FOUGHT THE PAGAN GODS IN ORDER TO BUILD HIS FORTRESS HERE.

I DID NOT SLAY HIM.

I ONLY BIT HIM, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW.

OH.

I'LL JUST SAY THIS...

I KNOW.

YOU'RE CONSIDER-ATE IN THE STRANGEST OF TIMES.

'TIS AN IMPORTANT DETAIL.

TRADING HOUSE?

WELL, TO THE TRADING HOUSE.

GOSHI

GOSHI (RUB)

SO, WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

STOP HITTING ME!

TRY TO REMEMBER, YOU DUNCE.

TRADE GUILDS ARE FORMED BY MERCHANTS BANDING TOGETHER FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

AHEM!

ALONE, A SINGLE MERCHANT HAS NO INFLUENCE AND NO WEAPONS.

BUT TOGETHER, THEIR CONNECTIONS CAN LET THEM PROTECT EACH OTHER.

LONG AGO, A GREAT TRADE ASSOCIATION MADE UP OF EIGHTEEN REGIONS AND TWENTY-THREE GUILDS WAS THE MOST POWERFUL ECONOMIC FORCE IN THE WORLD.

HA HA!

IT WENT TO WAR WITH AN ENTIRE NATION— AND WON.

THAT'S WHY, WHEN YOU'RE DOING A BIG DEAL...

...A TRADE GUILD CAN ISSUE A PROMISSORY NOTE THAT GIVES YOU A LOT OF POWER.

IT CAN GUARANTEE THE ABILITY OF A MERCHANT TO MAKE A CERTAIN TRANSACTION.

PEOPLE WON'T LOOK DOWN ON YOU.

AAH.

.....

I'D JUST AS SOON DRINK MY FILL IN THE SQUARE.

BUT WHY MUST I COME ALONG?

SO YOU'VE GOT YOUR BUSINESS IN THE TRADE HOUSE, THEN...

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LEAVE YOU ALONE.

MMMM

NO AMOUNT OF LOVELINESS WILL PUT CHURCH GUARDS OR TEMPLE KNIGHTS OFF YOUR TAIL.

WHAT IF YOU GET DRUNK AND LET YOUR EARS OR TAIL SHOW?

GYU (GRAB)

MM, 'TIS TRUE, I AM A BIT TOO LOVELY!

YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

KURU (TWIRL)

KURU

AND HERE WE ARE.

TA (TUP) TA TA TA TA.

YEAH. THE BUILDINGS IN MY HOME VILLAGE ARE LIKE THIS.

WHAT A STRANGE BUILDING.

SO THIS IS LIKE A SECOND HOME-LAND TO YOU.

RIGHT THEN, I'VE GOT BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SO JUST WAIT HERE.

WHAT, ARE YOU NOT GOING TO BRING ME IN AND SHOW ME OFF TO YOUR OLD VILLAGE MATES?

THAT WOULD BASICALLY AMOUNT TO A PREAMBLE TO MARRIAGE.

BURL (SHAKE)

MY TOWN'S MARRIAGE CEREMONIES ARE QUITE ROWDY— ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THAT?

I'LL BE DONE SOON. GO EAT SOME SWEETBREAD OVER THERE OR SOME-THING.

MU (IRK)

OH, YOU DON'T WANT ANY?

I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD.

KO (KNOCK)

KO

FURA (FLAP)

I DO.

FURA

GACHA XACHA

PLACE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT...

KO (TAK)

KO

HEY!

WELL NOW, WHAT A POOR MERCHANT THIS IS!

WANDERING AROUND A TRADING HOUSE AT THIS HOUR— CARES NOT A WHIT FOR MAKING MONEY!

AHEM

AND HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT EITHER

YOU'D DO BETTER CHANGING INTO A THIEF'S CLOTHES AND GETTING YOURSELF TO AN ALE-HOUSE!

RUNNING AROUND THE MARKETPLACE ALL DAY IS THE SIGN OF THE THIRD-RATE MERCHANT.

KO

THEIR ONLY STAIN IS THE INK UPON THEIR FINGERS.

KO

KO (TUP)

THE GREATEST MERCHANTS MAKE MONEY WITHOUT DIRTYING THEIR SHOES WITH SO MUCH AS A SPECK OF DUST.

DOKA (WHUMP)

AM I WRONG?

YOU'VE GOTTEN CLEVER, BOY!

BWA HA HA HA HA!

PACHI (SMAK)

HA HA HA HA!

AND YET I KNOW OF ALL THE TIMES YOU WET YOUR BEDROLL AFTER WE MADE CAMP.

BWA HA HA!

GIRI (YANK)

GIRI

OR SHOULD I MENTION THE TIME YOU STOLE THE CASHBOX AND SNUCK OFF WITH YOUR FRIENDS, TREMBLING, TO THE WHORE-HOUS—

AND IS IT NOT THE TEACHING OF GOD THAT A GOOD FATHER KNOWS WELL HIS SON?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ALL IN THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD ARE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

WELCOME HOME, MY SON!

STOP THE "MY SON" NONSENSE.

HA HA HA HA!

THIS CERTAINLY IS THE KIND OF TOUGH LOVE YOU ONLY GET AT HOME.

KOFF! KOFF!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I'M KRAFT LAWRENCE, THEN, SON OF THE GREAT JAKOB TARANTINO.

PA (WHAP)

THEY'RE ALL DOING WELL, BY THE GRACE OF THE SAINTS.

HOW FARES OUR FAMILY IN OTHER TOWNS?

SO, YOU'RE BACK IN RUVIN-HEIGEN AFTER A YEAR GONE.

IF YOUR PURSE IS HEAVY, YOUR TROUSERS SAG. IF YOUR TROUSERS SAG, THE LADIES WON'T LIKE YOU. AND YOU, LAD, ARE A VAIN ONE.

AM I WRONG?

GOSO

GOSO SHFF

...YOU MUST BE FAIRLY BRIMMING WITH PROFIT.

GOOD, GOOD. WELL, NOW, IF YOU'VE GONE THE ROUNDS AMONG FAMILY...

KACHA (CHOK)

...BUT OLD JAKOB'S EYES ARE STILL SHARP, I SEE.

I'VE HEARD THAT THE ABILITY TO HANDLE FIGURES GETS BAD WITH AGE...

I SURELY LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN YOU'RE A FAMOUS ENOUGH MERCHANT THAT PEOPLE FLINCH AT THE MENTION OF YOUR NAME.

YOU'RE TELLING ME.

YOU NEED A CERTIFICATE?

WELL THEN, YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, SO YOU MUST BE HERE ON BUSINESS.

YES.

ENOUGH ABOUT THE BED-WETTING

HA-HA-HA, THE LITTLE BED WETTER'S BRINGING IN REAL SILVER NOW! HOW LOVELY.

HA HA HA!

NOW THAT'S A STRANGE QUESTION.

OH, RIGHT. DO YOU KNOW OF ANY TRADERS IN THE GUILD THAT'RE HEADED TO LAMTRA?

I WAS JUST THINKING OF PROVIDING A SHORTCUT TO LAMTRA IN EXCHANGE FOR A CONSIDER-ATION...

OH HOH.

GIKU (TWITCH)

YOU'VE MET A CERTAIN YOUNG SHEPHERDESS.

BUT NOBODY MAKES A BUSINESS OF THAT NOW, AND NOBODY ASKS THAT GIRL FOR ESCORT.

YOU'RE FAR FROM THE FIRST TO HAVE THAT IDEA, BOY. ESPECIALLY AFTER THE ROAD THAT WENT THROUGH THE AREA SHE WANDERS WAS FINISHED.

SHA (SWSH)

SHA

"AAH...

...THE CHURCH?

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

SARA (SKRITCH)

SARA

CHAPO (SPLOSH)

SO, WHO DO I MAKE THE CERTIFICATE OUT TO? OR SHOULD I LEAVE IT BLANK?

GIVE IT UP.

I KNOW NORAH THE NYMPH IS THE TYPE OF GIRL YOU LIKE...

...BUT JUST THINK OF HER AS CHURCH PROPERTY.

REMELIO, EH? IF YOU ALREADY KNOW WHO YOU'RE SELLING TO... YOU MUST BE SELLING ON MARGIN THEN, HMM?

NO, MAKE IT OUT TO THE REMELIO COMPANY, PLEASE.

IS THERE SOME-THING I SHOULD KNOW?

YES, OUT OF POROSON. THE LAT-PARRON COMPANY.

THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF SAINT LAMBARDOS.

I'LL PRAY FOR YOUR GOOD FORTUNE.

POTA (DRIP)

POTA

MM.

WELL, YOU'LL SEE WHEN YOU GET THERE.

GU (PSH)

NIKA (GRIN)

HERE, YOUR CERTIFICATE.

MY THANKS ...

...

JARI
CRUNCH

SPICE & WOLF

ONE MORE THING—

!

EVEN A MILD ONE LIKE NORAH'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE.

JUST YOU WAIT BEFORE GETTING INVOLVED WITH ANY GIRLS, YOU HEAR?

AND WITH THAT—

YOU CAN'T INVEST WITHOUT CAPITAL.

HOW DID HE KNOW?

A CITY GIRL WOULD TAKE UP ALL YOUR PROFITS JUST LIKE THAT!

PATAN (SHUT)

STILL AS SHARP-TONGUED AS EVER...

WELL MET! YOU BED WETTER!

HA HA HA!

OH, THERE HE IS. THAT'S MY COMPANION.

GOKU GULP

FROM THE STATE OF YOUR HANDS, I'D SAY YOU'RE, WHAT, IN YOUR THIRD YEAR OF APPRENTICESHIP?

BIKU (FLINCH)

!

THEY'RE ALREADY AT IT, EVEN AT MIDDAY?

WHEW.

IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ERRAND, NO DOUBT.

PON

PON (PAT)

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

CALLED ME A BEAUTIFUL ROSE, THEY DID.

TEE HEE!

THEY WERE PRECIOUS.

APPRENTICE BOYS ARE LIKE WILD DOGS.

DON'T MESS AROUND WITH THEM.

YOU COULD GET TAKEN.

NIKO (SMILE)

AM I WRONG?

AND IN THAT CASE, YOU COULD COME RESCUE ME AGAIN.

YOU GOT ME.

GYU (HUG)

SURE, I'D RESCUE YOU.

OF COURSE, IN THE END, I WAS THE ONE WHO RESCUED YOU.

SO...

...YOU FAVOR FAIR HAIR, DO YOU?

HUH?

IT'S LIKE A GAME FOR HIM TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT. I'M NOT—

YOU HEARD ALL THAT? NOW JUST WAIT A MINUTE—

THAT'S JUST MASTER JAKOB'S WAY OF SAYING HELLO.

AND SO SCRAWNY TOO.

NIKO GRIN

OR DO YOU LIKE THE CAREWORN LOOK?

NOT WHAT?

GIRI (SQUEEZE

GUGU (CLENCH

OR DO YOU JUST HAVE A THING FOR SHEPHERD-ESSES?

JI (STARE)

L!...

MM...

.....

W-WELL, SURE, I THOUGHT NORAH WAS NICE.

I CAN'T SAY OUR CONVER-SATION WASN'T PLEASANT.

BUT... THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT THINKING OF YOU, OR...

WELL, IT... DOESN'T MEAN THAT.

HAAA (SIIIGH)

NIKO (GRIN)

NIKO

WHA!?

I—

I WAS JUST TEASING...

KAA (BLUSH)

IF THEY'RE BEING SOLD.

AND THEN I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO TASTE HONEYED PEACH PRESERVES!

MM.

WE'LL HEAD BACK TO THE INN, THEN GO AND SELL OFF THAT ARMOR.

KAAN (DONNNG)
カーン

KAAN
カーン

THE REMELIO COMPANY WAS A WHOLESALER THAT OPERATED A SHOP IN RUVINHEIGEN.

IN ORDER TO PAY THEM BACK, HE PLANNED TO SELL TO THE REMELIO COMPANY, WITH WHICH LATPARRON OFTEN DEALT.

LAWRENCE HAD BOUGHT ON MARGIN, FROM THE LATPARRON COMPANY, MORE ARMOR THAN HE HAD ASSETS TO SECURE.

GARA

GARA (CLACK)

THIS IS THE PLACE.

HE'D JUST HAVE THEM RECORD IT IN THEIR LEDGERS, AND THAT WOULD BE THAT.

THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO RETURN ALL THE WAY TO POROSON TO REPAY HIS DEBT.

GARA

GARA

SHHHH (SILENT)

THERE'S NO WAY THEY'RE ALL AT LUNCH...

WITH MONKS, I'D AT LEAST EXPECT TO HEAR PRAYERS.

MOGU (MUNCH)

IS THIS COMPANY MANAGED BY MONKS?

JARI (CRUNCH)

GASHA (CLUNK)

.....

IT LOOKS LIKE A BANKRUPT TRADING FIRM...

GOTO (TNK)

TSU (TAP)

I MIGHT WIND UP HAVING TO BACK-TRACK TO POROSON...

MAYBE THIS IS WHAT MASTER JAKOB WAS TALKING ABOUT...

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE BUILDING.

THERE IS?

WHAT A PAIN.

IT SEEMS DANGEROUS, THOUGH. AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WON'T BE PLEASANT.

PIKU CFLIKO

.....

MAYBE I SHOULD GO ELSE-WHERE...

WELCOME TO THE REMELIO COMPANY.

GASHAN (KACHOK)

OH.

!?

YITA LEER

UGH...

GASHA

ER, WELL, THAT IS...

GASHA (KLUNK)

I DARESAY THERE ARE A FEW HOURS LEFT BEFORE THE SABBATH—SO WHAT IS THE MATTER?

WHAT A LOVELY HORSE. DID SIR COME TO THE CITY TODAY?

BURURURU (NICKER)

NO, I CAME A FEW DAYS AGO, YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.

WELL, YOU SEEM BUSY, SO I'LL COME BY LATER. I'M IN NO SPECIAL HURRY.

.....

ZOKU (CHILL)

WELL NOW, DO WAIT JUST A MOMENT, SIR. I CAN TELL SIR IS A TRADER OF SOME REPUTE.

IT WOULD BE RUDE OF ME TO LET SIR LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED.

NOT AT ALL. I'M A MERCHANT WITH LITTLE BESIDES COMPLAINTS TO SELL.

GU (TUG)

EVEN A BLIND BEGGAR COULD TELL SIR IS A MAN OF STATURE!

SIR SHOULDN'T SELL HIMSELF SO CHEAPLY!

HIHI. (NEIGH)

FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.

WELL, THEN, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE...

AH!

IPA (WHIP)

BIHIIN (WHINNY)

PHEW

YES... MOST UNFORTUNATE. I AWAIT SIR'S RETURN.

LAWRENCE. FROM THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD.

I BELIEVE I FORGOT TO ASK SIR'S NAME.

I JUST HAVE TO QUICKLY SELL THE ARMOR ELSEWHERE AND REPAY MY DEBT TO THE LATPARRON COMPANY.

GIVING JUST MY NAME SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT. THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OF MY CIRCUM-STANCES...

LAWRENCE, YOU SAY! INDEED!

FROM THE LATPARRON COMPANY.

ACTUALLY, LAST NIGHT A MESSENGER ON A FAST HORSE CAME TO US.

IT CAN'T BE.

YOU WERE BRINGING SOME ARMOR FROM LATPARRON TO OUR COMPANY, YES?

!?

THE LATPARRON COMPANY HAS HAD THEIR OBLIGATIONS ASSIGNED TO OUR COMPANY.

IT CAN'T BE.

!?

...YOU NOW OWE...

IT CAN'T BE...

SO, YOU SEE...

...A DEBT TO US, MR. LAWRENCE.

!?

グラッ

GURA
(WOBBLE)

KAGASHA
(CHOK)

WHAT IS WRONG?

...JUST LIKE US.

THE MERCHANT BESIDE YOU HAS FAILED AT BUSINESS...

WHAT...?

THE PRICE OF ARMOR DROPPED SOME TIME AGO.

THE OLD FOX AT THE LATPARRON COMPANY SHIFTED HIS DEAD STOCK ONTO YOU.

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

WE'VE BEEN HAD...

To be continued in Volume 5...

THIS IS VOLUME 4 OF THE SPICE & WOLF MANGA. THANKS TO THE SUPPORT I'VE GOTTEN, I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD ON THIS SERIES FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS NOW. IN 2009 I HAD THE RARE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING HOLO'S VOICE ACTRESS, AMI KOSHIMIZU, AT AN AUTOGRAPH EVENT IN TAIWAN. I FELT AN ESPECIALLY STRONG PASSION FROM THE FANS THERE. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH.

NOW, THEN. IN THIS VOLUME WE TRULY GET INTO THE MATERIAL FROM VOLUME 2 OF THE NOVELS, BUT IT'S GOING A BIT MORE SLOWLY THAN PLANNED, THANKS TO LAWRENCE AND HOLO'S CONSTANT FLIRTING (REGARDLESS OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS). IF I CUT DOWN ON IT, THOUGH, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LOOK THE READERS IN THE FACE, SO I'VE GOT TO JUST DIG IN AND DO MY BEST.

I'VE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH ANOTHER SHORT PIECE ABOUT NORAH, AS IN VOLUME 3.

IT'S JUST A TRIFLE, COMPARED WITH HASEKURA-SENSEI'S COLLECTION OF SHORT PIECES, BUT I TRIED MY BEST TO MAKE IT ENJOYABLE TO READ.

THE STORIES DEALING WITH LAWRENCE'S DIFFICULTIES ARE QUITE DARK, BUT HAVING THE PRIEST GET A LITTLE DIRTY WAS RATHER AMUSING, I THOUGHT. LIVING A LIFE THAT PRECLUDES WOMEN, IT WOULD BE STRANGE IF HE DIDN'T STRAY FROM THE PATH A BIT WHEN PRESENTED WITH SUCH A LOVELY, FAIRYLIKE GIRL.

WAIT, I'M SORRY. JUST KIDDING. IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE A STALKER.

MY FOOLISH RAMBLINGS HAVE GOTTEN A BIT LONG.

I SHOULD THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE COME TO MY AID IN THE WRITING OF THIS COMIC—— ISUNA HASEKURA-SENSEI, JYUU AYAKURA-SENSEI, AND MY EDITORS MSSRS. O AND T. ALSO, OF COURSE, THE THE READERS WHO HAVE STUCK WITH ME THIS FAR.

THE STORY CONTINUES IN VOLUME 5.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOU'LL CONTINUE TO ENJOY BOTH IT, AND THE NOVELS ON WHICH IT IS BASED.

KEITO KOUME
3/3/2010

ME, TAKE SOME REST?

BUT DON'T THE SHEEP NEED TO BE FATTENED FOR THE COMING WINTER?

WHA ...?

Bonus Track

BAAAH

...YES, FATHER.

DO FEEL FREE TO USE THE SAME SHEEP-FOLD YOU NORMALLY SLEEP IN.

THE BUSINESS WITH KARL WAS SUCH AN IMPOSITION, I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE SOME TIME OFF.

OH YES, ALSO—THE PARISH'S HEAD PRIEST WILL BE HERE TODAY.

APPARENTLY HE WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

KA (TAK)

KA

.....

WITH ME...?

NORAH ARENDT! GOOD HEAVENS, BUT YOU'VE GROWN!

AH, HERE THEY ARE.

I CAME TO RETURN THIS TO YOU.

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE RECEIVED SOME TIME OFF, YES? YOU SHOULD VENTURE INTO TOWN.

...YOU ARE YET YOUNG. YOU SHOULD USE IT ON YOURSELF.

I HEARD YOU'D GIVEN TITHES. YOUR DEDICATION IS ADMIRABLE. HOWEVER...

IT'S NOT GOOD TO SPEND ALL ONE'S TIME AMONGST SHEEP.

YOU SHOULD TRY BEING A NORMAL GIRL SOMETIMES, I THINK.

YES, FATHER!

HMPH... VERY WELL— KENNETH, YOU GO ALONG AND BE NORAH'S ESCORT.

HOLY FATHER ...! I CAN'T HAVE YOU SAYING SUCH THINGS!

THERE, DONE! THOUGH IT'S A BIT SHORT.

THANK YOU... YOU'RE QUITE GOOD AT THAT, KENNETH.

MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

I'LL GO SEE IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU CAN USE FOR A SHAWL.

YOU GO AHEAD TO THE SQUARE.

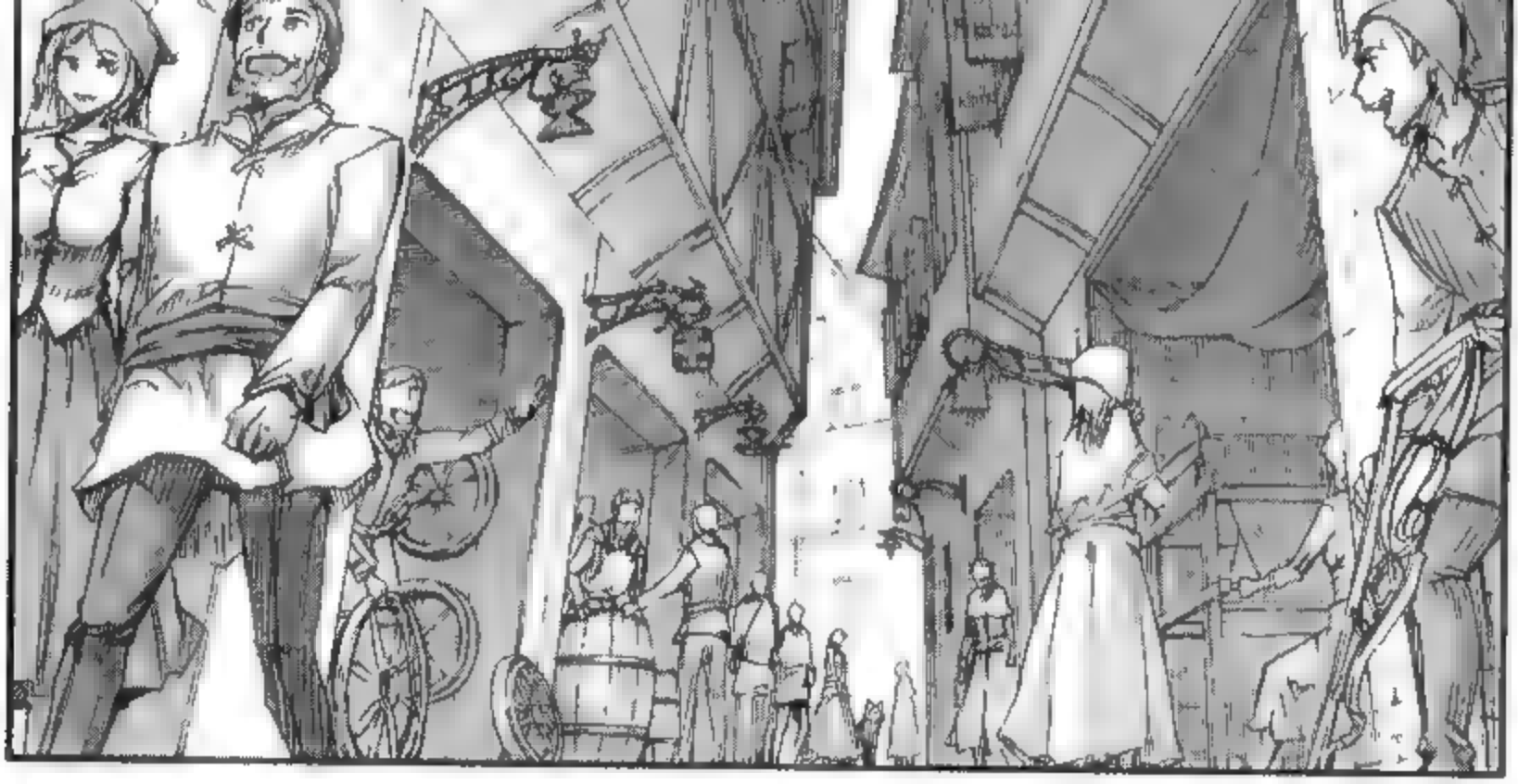
YOU WANT TO COME ALONG, BOY?

SFX: TA (TUP) TA TA TA

GYU (SQUEEZE)

GARA (RATTLE)

GARA



HERE, LOOK.

I'D LOVE TO MAKE CLOTHES LIKE THAT SOMEDAY. I COULD NEVER WEAR THEM, THOUGH.

SUTA (STEP)

SUTA

.....

TA (TUP)

SUTA

SUTA

...COME, LET'S HURRY TO THE SQUARE.

BEST KEEP AWAY FROM HER...

OH!

TODAY SURE WAS A LONG DAY, HUH, ENEK?

I HOPE WE GET A JOB FROM MR. LAWRENCE SOON.

GURI

AND THAT GIRL... I WANTED TO TALK WITH HER MORE. SHE SEEMED ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS ME.

BO- (FWUMP)

I WONDER IF HE REALLY WAS A TRAVELING MERCHANT.

I'VE MET MERCHANTS ON THE ROAD BEFORE, AND HE WASN'T A THING LIKE THEM.

KUSU (GIGGLE)

WHAT IF MR. LAWRENCE IS REALLY A DEVIL...

WHAT ABOUT IT, ENEK?

...AND HE'S KIDNAPPED THE QUEEN OF SOME FAR-OFF LAND.

ALTHOUGH... MISS HOLO SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF.

Leon
PIKU
(PERK)

NORAH ARENDT. ARE YOU ASLEEP?

WHAT COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR?

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

!

GU (THUD)

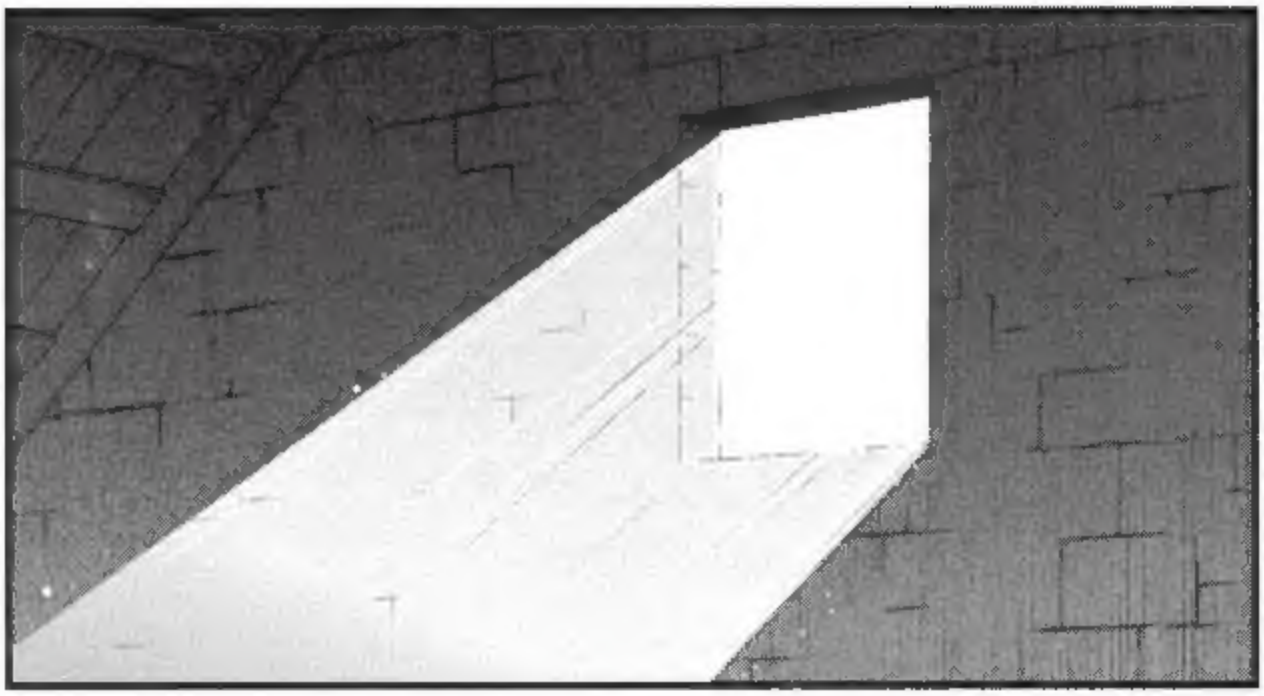
ENEK?

GISHI GREAK

IS SOME-ONE WITH YOU?

THAT FAIRY BELONGS TO THE CHURCH.

KO
KO
KO
KO
JARI (CRUNCH)
KO (TUP)



... The End.

Special Thanks!
MR. OKAMOTO ITTOUHEI,
MR. TENTSU TOI, MR.
YAKKUN, MR. N-TA

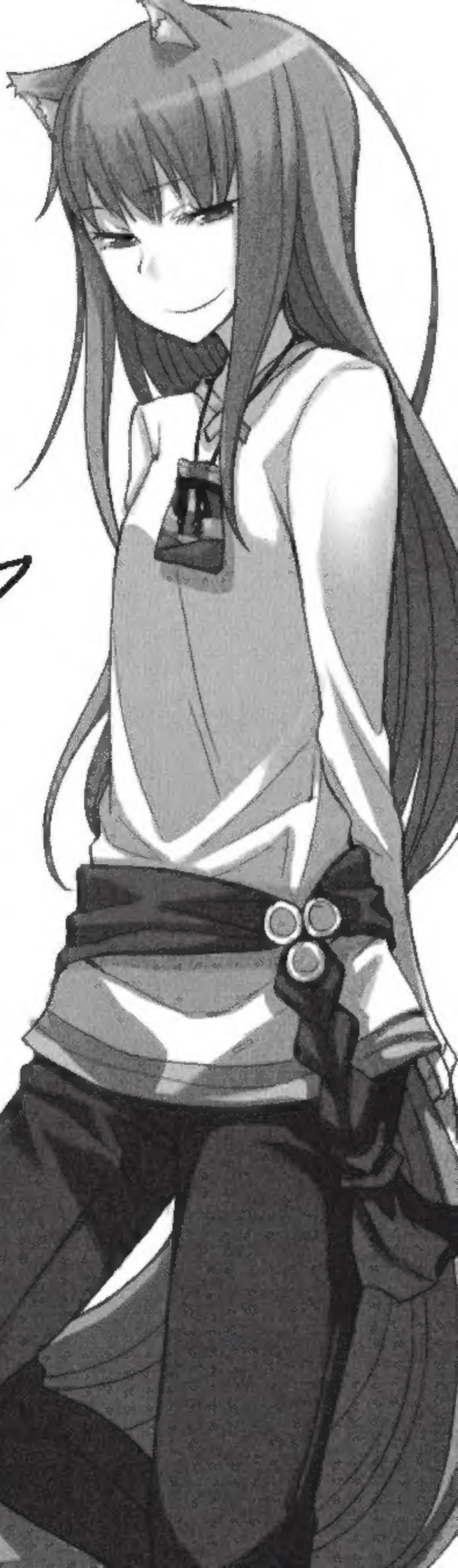
Huzzah! Volume 4 is on sale! I look forward to seeing your storyboards every month, so I hope we can keep going on to Volume 10! Or 20!

Isuna Hasekura

SPICE & WOLF

Congratulations on Volume 4! I look away for a second, and Volume 4 shows up. Well done, Sir. I hope we get to see much more of the lovely Holo and everyone else in the future.

Jyuu Ayakura



SPICE & WOLF 4

Isuna Hasekura
Keito Koume
Character design:
Jyuu Ayakura

Translation: Paul Starr

Lettering: Terri Delgado

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